

or work harder in their behalf, even after an election, than our village Mayors. Prior to 1990, the title of these public servants was changed from commissioner to mayor, but their role in the villages did not change, and our dependence upon them, especially during typhoons and village-wide activities, did not diminish over the years.

Guam is a small place with a relatively small population, and our people are not far removed from their elected officials—myself included. This intimacy, and the expectation of direct and immediate access, is especially true of our Mayors. They are called upon in a multitude of ways—often to address problems having little or nothing to do with the delivery of community service, but to assist with private, familial matters. Whether it is to accept representative membership on a task force to address an island-wide youth problem, dropping out of school, for example, or helping Mr. and Mrs. Villager talk to their son Johnny into staying in school, village Mayors are expected to attend personally to village matters, large or small. This is the case of the Honorable Vicente Cepeda Bernardo, the Mayor of Yona, my home village.

In a few weeks, Mayor Bernardo will leave office after having served for many years. More than simply being one of my constituents, Mayor Bernardo is a long-time neighbor and friend. I am one of his constituents. Like my fellow villagers, I turn to Mayor Bernardo to address problems in Yona.

It would be too easy to let Mayor Bernardo's record of accomplishments speak in his behalf. The streets he named in honor of Yona's fallen military sons and those residents deserving of the recognition are numerous indeed. The capitol improvement projects he pushed for—the street lights, five hydrants, pump stations and water lines, the police koban, the village gymnasium, the village library, the paved roads and more—now benefit Yona and the rest of the island. The many, many community activities that he spearheaded earned praise for the whole village. But as extensive as it is, Mayor Bernardo's list of accomplishments does not convey how well he knew and understood the people of his village. It does not convey his deep and abiding love for his neighbors or how much he had given of himself over the years. I am privileged, as his constituent, neighbor and friend, to commend him for his achievements and to thank him for the many, many hours he has

contributed beyond the regular eight-hour, five-day work-week.

As his constituent, my family and I have benefited in countless ways from his devotion to duty and his responsiveness to the needs of the village. I worked with him when I was the President of the Parent Teachers Organization at M.U. Lujan. Lorraine, my wife, worked with him on many community projects and served with him as an appointed member of the Mayor's Community Council. Our entire family worked with him on other community projects and he performed his duties with dignity and with the attention to the needs of his community exemplified his public service.

I join Mayor Bernardo's family, relatives, friends and fellow neighbors in acknowledging his service to the community of Yona and to Guam. On behalf of the people of Guam, I proudly congratulate him for successfully taking on one of the most challenging and demanding public offices in Guam. And as a fellow public servant, I send my warmest and most grateful *si Yu'os ma'ase*. *Maolek todo i che'cho'-mu, amigo-hu, para i benifisium todo i toatao Guam. Ma sen agrede si i setbisium-mu* (thank you very much. The work you have done on behalf of the people of Guam has been outstanding. The people of Guam truly appreciate your services).

#### HONORING MARILYN CULPEPPER

#### HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2000*

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Marilyn Culpepper for her dedication to the health and well being of Monroe County, Alabama, citizens.

Marilyn Culpepper was appointed to the Monroe County Hospital Board in July 1996 and elected its chairwoman by unanimous vote of the board a few months later. She served as chairwoman from 1997 to 2000. Mrs. Culpepper has since moved to Mobile, and I wish her well as she takes on new challenges.

A native of Grove Hill, Alabama, Mrs. Culpepper is a 1980 graduate of the University of West Alabama (formerly Livingston University) and was the recipient of that school's Alumni of the Year Award in 1996.

Over the years, she has had several successful careers and civic achievements. In

1986, at age 27, she was elected to the Sumter County Board of Education. She was elected a second time in 1988 and served with distinction until moving to Monroe County in 1991.

In Monroe County, Marilyn Culpepper served first as associate editor, then managing editor of the award-winning weekly newspaper, *The Monroe Journal*. She also distinguished herself through community service in several capacities. To name a few, she was president and/or board member of the Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Monroe County Public Education Foundation, and the Monroeville Kiwanis Club (where she was the first woman elected as "Kiwanian of the Year"). She also served as a volunteer for the Monroe County Heritage Museums, and for the Alabama Writers Symposium during their inaugural year. In addition, she served in Israel as the representative of the Monroe County Commission and the Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce during performances of "To Kill a Mockingbird." Manifesting her talent, Mrs. Culpepper is a two-time recipient of the Alabama Medical Association's Douglas L. Cannon Recognition for Excellence in Medical Journalism.

As editor of *The Monroe Journal* and, later, economic developer for Monroe County from 1997–2000 and as chairwoman of the Monroe County Hospital Board, Mrs. Culpepper was an advocate for accessible health care for all citizens regardless of age, social or economic status. She was a driving force behind expansion of hospital services and creation of a rural health clinic in Monroe County.

Under Mrs. Culpepper's leadership, the hospital in Monroeville embarked on a major expansion and construction project, the creation of a cancer-treatment center and the development of a diabetes support program. She also oversaw the creation of the Monroe Health Foundation and has been a contributor to the foundation.

Today, Mrs. Culpepper serves as executive director of the Historic Mobile Preservation Society. Her commitment to community development—preservation, education, and innovation in enriching the lives of all citizens continues. She is committed to developing a regional network of cultural, civic and humanitarian efforts to benefit all residents of south Alabama and continues to be a friend to Monroe County and Monroe County Hospital in this endeavor.